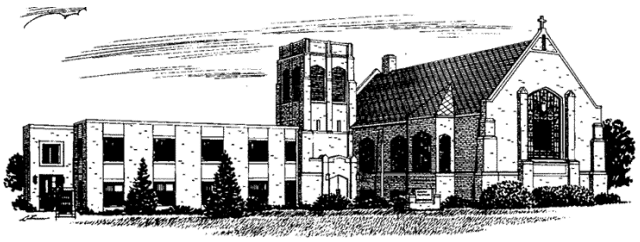


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

March 2015

During our mid-week services in Lent, we will be pondering the Way of the Cross. Adapted from a custom observed by Christian pilgrims who said prayers in Jerusalem at a series of places in that city associated with the passion of Jesus, we will take time to ponder five of the sites and accompanying Scripture passages.

The Way of the Cross
Wednesday Evenings
March 4, 11, 18, 25

Soup Supper 6:00 PM
Holden Evening Prayer and Meditation
7:00 PM

FEBRUARY 25
JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH
Tyler Cook-Meditation

MARCH 4
JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM;
Alissa Oleson - Meditation

MARCH 11
JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS
Connor Ashley - Meditation

MARCH 18
JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS
Pastor David Slater - Meditation

MARCH 25
JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS
Denise Cook – Meditation

I hope you will join us on the journey.
Pastor Joan

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –
We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ev Maki** is at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Dorris Doutt** is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman and **Eleanor Anderson** at home.

Serving in the military:
Andy Wedde – North Carolina

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes

Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in March

Mar. 1 - Michael Hoodlebrink
3 – Bruce Huff
4 – Krin Jurgensen
Caleb Pudell
8 – Austin Kamala
9 – Colbe Pudell
10 - Brad Frey
12 - Susan Rood
14 - Ruth Stelling
17 – Mia Bradley
18 – Peter Johnson
19 - Karleann Stankiewicz
Alexander Tzouanakis
20 – Nicole (de la Foret) Rick
Sandy Seymour
21 - Bob Seymour
Kaitlin (Huff) Hooper
22 – Janet Oleson
25 - James Nadeau
26 - Susan Bailey
27 - Eloise Moely
Shelly Stankiewicz
28 - Matthew Gacek
Zachary Ark

Happy Anniversary Wishes to the following Members in March …

Mar. 11 - Richard and Marlene Schalon

Please call the church office at 983-1273 for additions or corrections.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS
As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday March 1
Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Sunday March 8
Third Sunday in Lent
Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
I Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

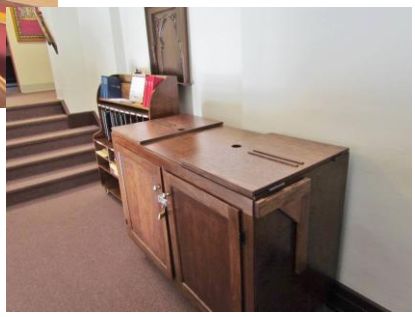
Sunday March 15
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Sunday March 22
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Sunday March 29
Palm Sunday
Procession with Palms: Mark 11:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1 — 15:47

Bell Choir – February 15

Thank you to Bob Deaton who designed and constructed a cabinet for the bells.



PRAYER GROUP

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

The 2015 Flower Chart is now posted in the narthex. Flowers can be purchased for worship by signing up on the flower chart in the narthex. Cost is $25. Please write "flowers" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope with cash. The flowers are ordered through the church office, unless otherwise designated. Please bring back the empty vases to give back to the florist. THANKS!

Learning book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Sunday School Teachers!

We are actively looking for more teachers to fill the ranks at Saron's Sunday School. Depending on how many teachers we have, you will teach once or twice per month. We are looking for anyone of adult age that is excited to share the Good News with the children of Saron. The foundational teaching of the Bible will allow children to be as excited about Jesus as our adults are! *Contact Scott Gaspari at scottgaspari@outlook.com if you are interested, or have any questions.*

Bible Study – Wednesday Mid-day

The Wednesday Bible study will not meet during Lent. Join us again after Easter.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will be on March 7th, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Gather at Saron for a devotion followed by breakfast at a local restaurant.

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church. David Slater leads us in our studies. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a time of fellowship. All men are invited to join us. As the Bible says "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). We are not meeting during Lent but rather encourage everyone to participate in the Wednesday evening soup suppers and worship. We'll resume our studies on Tuesday, April 7. For more information call Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or David Slater at 269-281-0848.

1st Sunday Book Group

March 1st, 6:30 in the upstairs lounge, we'll gather to discuss "Still Life with Bread Crumbs", by one of the best known popular writers today, Anna Quindlen. She is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and columnist and has written a "wise tale about second chances, starting over, and going after what is most important in life" (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Since we cancelled our February meeting, we will also spend time talking about "The Secret of the Nightingale Palace", by Dana Sachs.

Then on April 12th (second Sunday, due to Easter) our choice is "The Gold Finch", by Donna Tartt. It is quite an ambitious book to read and should make for a great discussion. Tartt won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2014. This literary novel follows the life of Theo, who was taken in as a young boy by a wealthy family after the death of his mother. Amazon's book review describes the story as: "An old-fashioned story of loss and obsession, survival and self invention, and the ruthless machinations of fate".

We have a lot going on, so please come and be a part of it. Questions? Call Kathie Bradley (269-427-7083) or Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354).

Outreach

Meet me at the Freezer

Saron has meals available in the dining room freezer. Please take one to another member, friend or neighbor - anyone in need. A meal, hug, phone call or visitare all ways we can show God's love. Thank you to our "Freezer" cooks this month - Kathy Cowall, Linda Pater, Jan Stevens, Darlene Kiessel, Paula Risetter, Mary Kynast and Sally Schmuhl.

THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you to everyone who donated winter hats, scarves, and mittens to students at Hull School in Benton Harbor. The cleaning supplies, tissues and other classroom supplies were very much appreciated by the teachers and students. Thanks for giving to others!

CROP WALK ANNUAL

The 36th Annual Blossomland CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, May 17 at 2:00 p.m. CROP stands for Community Responding to Overcome Poverty. We all can help by either donating or walking - let's get involved!

BLOOD DRIVE

17 pints is the unofficial count for our February 16th blood drive. We won't know the grand total until a little later. Many thanks go out to Joyce Marquardt - without you contacting everyone and being there to see the blood drive through, we could never do such a great blood drive - and to Marilyn Lucy who is the grand chocolate pretzel maker (who is loved by the Michigan Blood people) and helps whenever she is called on. Without them both we wouldn't have such a successful drive.

Many thanks , Keith Stevens

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Used Eye Glass Collection

If you have any used glasses that are no longer of use to you, bring them in and place them in the box located in the narthex. They are collected by the local Lions organization for their mission trips to assist people to see once again. The work is an ongoing task of the Lions. Thank You

Keith Stevens, St. Joseph Township Lions

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

Saron served 155 guests on January 22,2015, a cold, sunny winter day. Our servers for the day were Richard and Marlene Schalon, Ruth Ball, Allen Snyder, Kathy and Gary Cowall, and Pastor Joan. We were also thrilled to have Lindsay

Gaspari and two of her students from Brookview Montessori School join us in cooking and serving of our ham dinner! They were great helpers and really enjoyed this outreach experience. Thanks to all of our cookie bakers! Just a reminder - we are always in need of LARGE cans of fruit (any kind).

God's work.Our Hands. Thank you, Jan Stevens

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 11th after the Lenten soup supper and worship service to work on a service project. Gift bags will be assembled for Saron's homebound and nursing home/assisted living members. Everyone should bring a small container of hand lotion and an Easter card.

MARK THE DATE

Our annual women's retreat will be held on Saturday April 25 from 9:00 until 3:30. Linda Pater will host the event at her home. The cost is $10.00 per person which includes breakfast and lunch. We encourage all women of the church to join us for a day of fun, fellowship and lively discussion. Guests are welcome. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthax. If you have any questions, please call Linda Pater at 468-3303.

Rummage Sale

On Saturday, June 13, 2015, Saron Church Women will be having a rummage sale in the church dining room. Please save items for the sale. We will let you know later when items may be brought to the church. Thank you.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

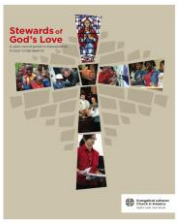
Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37b-39



As we enter Lent this year let us all strive to be an example of Christ's love and compassion. Consider a passage from Mother Teresa's Prayerbook:

"Let us all become a true and fruitful branch on the vine Jesus, by accepting Him in our lives as it please Him to come:

As the Truth---to be told:
As the Life---to be lived:
As the Light---to be lighted:
As the Way---to be walked:
As the Joy---to be given:
As the Peace---to be spread:
As the Sacrifice---to be offered:
In our families and within our neighborhood"
God's Work. Our Hands.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock contact our representative , Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Eric Standen or Denise Cook when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Eric or Denise.

Council News

Attendance Record	
01/25/2015	*107*
02/01/2015	*45*
02/08/2015	*87*
02/15/2015	*55*

Saron's Council Members – 2015

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – President
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Vice President
Dave Bradley (427-70834) – Treasurer
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Secretary
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Worship*
Jack Houser (556-0377) - Learning*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Ken Ark (269-369-4766) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Austin Kamala – (269-930-5989) – Youth*
Joyce Marquardt (408-8650) – Support*
Dave Bradley (427-70834) - Support
Frieda Williams (556-7269) – Hospitality*
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor

**liaison*

Youth

WE'RE GOING TO DETROIT!

Saron's youth are heading to Detroit for the ELCA Youth Gathering in July. You can help us get there through one of our fundraisers! ***Thank you to all who bought subs!***

POP CANS

Please save your returnable pop cans. They can be dropped off into the bin at the office door. Or, you can return your bottles and cans and bring in the receipt for the youth to redeem. Thank you!

STOCK SALE

Watch for details! We will be selling stock "with a twist." Buy stock; watch a job get done! It's a win/win project!

Facilities

A COUPLE OF REQUESTS

Is your group using the building? Please make sure you are placed on the church calendar. As the building gets used more and more we need to make sure that we don't have conflicts regarding space. Requests for building use will be processed through the church office.

Also….
Help us be good neighbors! If you are taking out the garbage at Saron, please make sure it gets into Saron's garbage can next to our "out building" near the alley and not in one of our neighbor's garbage cans. And if the garbage can is full, place the plastic bag next to the garbage can or if you have the ability to take it home, we invite you to do so. This includes recyclables. Thank you so much!

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEEDS HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers at Saron that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 up to noon. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saving the church a considerable amount of money in cleaning and maintenance expenses. The work is not hard - mainly folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday morning, minor maintenance and cleaning/vacuuming of the church. If you would like to have more information on volunteering please talk to Dennis or Colleen Lundgren , Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

Living Water Ministries
Faith Formation, Service, Leadership, and Community

It's not too early to start thinking about summer camp. Here's the link to our synod's camp. There are programs in the following areas – elementary, junior high, senior high, service trips, day camp, and specialized programs. For more information, contact Pastor.

http://www.elcalivingwater.com/

SYNOD NEWS

If you would like to learn more about our synod, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, or read synod news, check out the synod website at www.mittensynod.org.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Check out www.elca.org for news of our churchwide organization. You can also find stories about life in the ELCA on http://www.elca.org/Living-Lutheran. There are stories, blogs, photos, and a feature called "Ask a Pastor.

Vision Statements:

Facilities
Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming
Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship
Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach
Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth
Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning
Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning

Southwest Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force

Saron is a member! Check out more information and keep up with items in the news on Facebook. Search for SW Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force.

Sponsored by the Task Force:

Be the CHANGE
That breaks the CHAINS
Community Awareness Event

Sunday, March 1 at 6:30 PM
First Church of God, 2726 Niles Ave, St. Joseph

- **Andy Soper** will introduce you to *Manasseh Project,* Michigan's first shelter for human-trafficked youth
- **Senator John Proos** will give a quick overview of new human trafficking laws that took effect on January 14
- **Survivors** will be on hand to help you understand how easily warning signs can be ignored and to realize that a victim doesn't necessarily look like TV/movie portrayals
- ***"Songs Against Slavery"*** Be inspired by this uplifting musical group and other local artists!
- **Practical Warning Signs Handouts** will be available to help bring about change in your own community
- **Planting Hope,** our tax-free fundraising campaign, will gladly accept donations to continue our law enforcement training,

CARE. SHARE. BE AWARE. ATTEND.

WORSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR MARCH

March 1 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Sue Rood
Reader/Com.Assist: Wendy King
Acolyte: Danielle Hohman
Ushers: Fritz Knauf and Steve Bell
Nursery:

March 8 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Wendy King
Reader Intinction: John Hoodlebrink
Acolytes: Brandon Burrow
Ushers: Keith Stevens and Allen Snyder
Nursery:

March 15 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Pauline Ngonyani
Reader/Com. Assist: Eric Standen
Ushers: Walt and Sally Schmuhl
Acolyte: Troy Burrow
Nursery:

March 22 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Eric Standen
Reader/Intinction: Jim Manore
Ushers: John and Kerrie Hoodlebrink
Acolyte: Jenna Henderson
Nursery:

March 29 (Palm Sunday) 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Marilyn Frey
Reader/Intinction: Jan Stevens
Ushers: Eric and Deborah Standen
Acolyte: Carter Hohman
Nursery:

Thank you for your willingness to serve. If a conflict arises for your scheduled time, please find a replacement or change with another volunteer. Calling the church office (983-1273) to alert us to changes will help us keep the bulletin as accurate as possible and know that everyone is in place on a Sunday morning.

March 1 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Denise Cook
Reader/Com. Assist: Frieda Williams
Acolyte: Grant Gacek
Ushers: Ken Ark and John Olson
Nursery:
Building Closing: Bob and Mary Kynast

March 8 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Bill Oleson
Reader/Intinction: Matt Bradley
Acolytes: Colin Ashley and Aiden Ashley
Ushers: Pat Breyen
Nursery:
Building Closing: Jerry and Ruth Stelling

March 15 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Drew Huff
Reader/Com. Assist: Brian Culverhouse
Ushers: Jerry and Ruth Stelling
Acolyte: Drew Huff and Austin Kamala
Nursery:
Building Closing: Colleen and Dennis Lundgren

March 22 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Colleen Lundgren
Reader/Intinction: Colleen Lundgren
Ushers: Jack and Cheryl Houser
Acolyte: Connor Ashley and Aiden Ashley
Nursery:
Building Closing: Bruce and Linda Huff

March 29 (Palm Sunday) 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Dennis Lundgren
Reader/Intinction: Mary Kynast
Ushers: Peter and Karen Johnson
Acolyte: Meredith Gacek
Nursery:
Building Closing: Ken Ark

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

March 2015

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
Plants and ELCA Good Gifts Livestock Order Form

_____*White Easter Lily 6.5" @$9.00* _____

_____*Tulip 6.5"*

(_____) *Pink*
*@$8.25*_____
(_____) *Purple*
*@$8.25*_____
(_____) *Yellow*
*@$8.25*_____

DUE MARCH 29

_____*Honey Bees* *@$20.00* _____

_____ *Fruit Tree* *@$10.00* _____

_____ *Garden Tools* *@$25.00* _____

_____ *Water Jug* *@$12.00* _____

_____*Share in Garden* *@$50.00* _____
(Community Garden = $200.00)

_____*Share-Oxen & Plow @$50.00*_____
(Oxen & Plow = $1,000.00)

General Donation *$*_____
DUE EASTER SUNDAY

Gifts are given….*In honor/memory of*

_____

_____

Your Name
_____

Amount _____ *Will Send*_____

MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 *Second Sunday in Lent* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. Learning 6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Club	2 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	3	4 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Worship	5 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	6 World Day of Prayer. Church Women United	7 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion Breakfast
8 *Third Sunday in Lent* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. Learning	9 9am Newsletter Articles Due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	10	11 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Worship Deborah Circle will Meet after Worship	12 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 *Fourth Sunday in Lent* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. Learning	16 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	17 3:30 p.m. Vasa Meeting at Saron	18 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Worship	19 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 *Fifth Sunday in Lent* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. Learning	23 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	24	25 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Worship	26 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Soup Kitchen	27	28
29 *Sunday of Passion/Palm Sunday* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. Learning	30 *Monday in Holy Week* 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	31 *Tuesday in Holy Week*			**FEBRUARY** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	**APRIL** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30